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Item 129 of the preliminary list*
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Multi-year payment plans

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 57/4 B, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Contributions concerning multi-year payment plans and, in its resolutions 58/1 B and 59/1 B, it reaffirmed that endorsement. In this connection, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to provide information on the submission of such plans to the Assembly, through the Committee on Contributions. It also recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Contributions, on the status of Member States' payment plans as at 31 December each year. The present report is submitted in compliance with those requests and provides information on payment plans/schedules submitted by Georgia, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan and on the status of implementation of those plans as at 31 December 2004.

The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report and encourage Member States with significant arrears in contributions to consider submitting a multi-year payment plan.

* A/60/50 and Corr.1.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/243 A of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly, inter alia, recognized that multi-year payment plans, subject to careful formulation, could be helpful in allowing Member States to demonstrate their commitment under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations to pay their arrears, thereby facilitating consideration of applications for exemption by the Committee on Contributions, and requested the Secretary-General to propose guidelines for such multi-year payment plans through the Committee on Contributions.

2. After considering the report of the Secretary-General[1] on multi-year payment plans at its sixty-second session in 2002,[2] the Committee on Contributions agreed that Member States should be encouraged to submit such plans, which constitute a useful tool for reducing their unpaid assessed contributions and a way for them to demonstrate their commitment to meeting their financial obligations to the United Nations. The Committee recognized in that regard that due consideration should be given to the economic position of Member States, as not all of them might be in a position to submit such plans and recommended that multi-year payment plans should remain voluntary and should not be automatically linked to other measures.

3. The Committee also recommended that Member States considering a multi-year payment plan should submit the plan to the Secretary-General for the information of other Member States and should be encouraged to consult the Secretariat for advice in its preparation. In that context, it was suggested that:

(a) The plans should provide for payment each year of the Member State's current year assessments and a part of its arrears;

(b) Where possible, the plans should generally provide for elimination of a Member State's arrears within a period of up to six years.

4. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to provide information on the submission of such plans to the General Assembly, through the Committee on Contributions and that the Secretary-General should also be requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Contributions, on the status of Member States' payment plans as at 31 December each year.

5. The Committee also recommended that, for those Member States that are in a position to submit a payment plan, the Committee on Contributions and the General Assembly should take the submission of a plan and its status of implementation into account as one factor when they consider requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter.

6. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 57/4 B of 20 December 2002, the General Assembly endorsed the above conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Contributions. In its resolutions 58/1 B of 23 December 2003 and 59/1 B of 23 December 2004, the Assembly reaffirmed paragraph 1 of resolution 57/4 B. The first annual report on multi-year payment plans[3] was considered by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session and the second annual report[4] at its fifty-ninth session.

II. Submission of multi-year payment plans

7. No new payment plans have been submitted since the issuance of the second annual report. Payment plans/schedules had been submitted earlier by Georgia, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan. In the announcement concerning the sixty-fifth session of the Committee on Contributions, to be included in the Journal of the United Nations from 13 January to 23 May 2005, the Secretariat has invited Member States considering the submission of a multi-year payment plan to contact the Secretariat for further information. Should any other payment plans be submitted, related information will be provided in an addendum to the present report or in the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

8. The most recent plan submitted by the Republic of Moldova is within the six-year time frame mentioned by the Committee, while those submitted by Georgia, the Niger, Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan have durations of 10, 9, 8 and 11 years, respectively. For the purposes of the present report, payments are taken to include cash payments by the Member States concerned, together with the application of any credits arising to their account during the period concerned. Related information is provided below.

Georgia

9. At the special session of the Committee on Contributions in 1999, the Government of Georgia indicated to the Committee that it intended to submit a schedule of future payments. It did so in 2000 at the sixtieth session of the Committee. At the sixty-first session of the Committee, in 2001, the Government of Georgia submitted a revised schedule. Under cover of his letters of 4 May 2002 and 17 May 2003 addressed to the President of the General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia submitted further revisions of the schedule. Those submissions are summarized below:

	Schedule proposed in			
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
	(United States dollars)			
2000	180 000			
2001	707 104	801 300		
2002	707 104	711 549[a]	671 818	
2003	707 104	711 549[a]	1 260 272[a]	
2004	1 060 656	1 067 324[a]	1 260 272[a]	776 229
2005	1 060 656	1 067 324[a]	1 260 272[a]	776 229
2006	1 414 208	1 423 094[a]	1 260 272[a]	776 229
2007	1 414 208	1 423 094[a]	1 260 272[a]	776 229
2008				776 229
2009				776 229
2010				776 229
2011				776 229
2012				776 229
2013				776 229

[a] Plus contributions for the current year.

10. If fully implemented, the most recent schedule proposed by the Government of Georgia would involve payments totalling $7,726,290. It would reduce Georgia's outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2013 to its total assessments for the period from 2005 to 2013 minus $544,376.

Niger

11. In a note verbale dated 22 March 2004, the Permanent Mission of Niger to the United Nations submitted a proposed schedule for the payment of its assessed contributions. The schedule is summarized below:

	Payment (United States dollars)
2004	18 000
2005	40 000
2006	45 000
2007	50 000
2008	70 000
2009	98 000
2010	98 000
2011	98 000
2012	30 000

12. If fully implemented, this schedule would involve payments totalling $547,000 over the period from 2004 to 2012. If that amount is received during the period from 2004 to 2012, it would reduce the Government's outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2012 to the total of its assessments during the period from 2005 to 2012 minus $122,103.

Republic of Moldova

13. At the special session of the Committee on Contributions in 1996, the Government of the Republic of Moldova indicated its intention to pay its arrears of assessed contributions to the United Nations over a period of seven years. The Government indicated revised schedules of payments at the fifty-ninth and sixty-first sessions of the Committee, in 1999 and 2001, respectively, which are summarized below (in United States dollars):

	Schedule proposed in:		
	1996	*1999*	*2001*
1996	1 000 000		
1997	1-1.2 million		
1998	1-1.2 million		
1999	1-1.2 million		

	Schedule proposed in		
	1996	*1999*	*2001*
2000	1-1.2 million	500 000	
2001	1-1.2 million	558 947	180 000
2002	1-1.2 million	700 000	500 000
2003		700 000	800 000
2004		700 000	820 000
2005			1 000 000

14. If fully implemented, the most recent schedule proposed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova would involve payments totalling $3.3 million over the period from 2001 to 2005. If that amount is received during the period from 2001 to 2005, it would reduce the Government's outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2005 to its total assessments during 2005 plus $116,809.

Sao Tome and Principe

15. Under cover of his letter of 17 May 2002 addressed to the President of the General Assembly, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations submitted the following calendar of future payments (in United States dollars):

	Payment
2002	27 237
2003	42 237
2004	59 237
2005	74 237
2006	89 237
2007	114 237
2008	134 237
2009	153 752

16. If fully implemented, the schedule proposed by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe would involve payments totalling $693,896. If that amount is received during the period from 2002 to 2009, it would reduce the Government's outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2009 to its total assessments during the period from 2005 to 2009 minus $41,742.

Tajikistan

17. In his letter of 15 September 2000 to the President of the General Assembly, the Prime Minister of Tajikistan indicated that his Government had paid $65,250.76 in 2000 and proposed a plan for the phased reduction of its arrears, which is summarized below (in United States dollars):

	Payment
2000	65 251
2001	67 822
2002	67 822
2003	67 822
2004	67 822
2005	67 822
2006	203 466
2007	203 466
2008	203 467
2009	203 467
2010	203 467

18. If fully implemented, the schedule proposed by the Government of Tajikistan would involve payments totalling $1,421,694. If that amount, which has already been exceeded, had been received during the period from 2000 to 2010, it would have reduced the Government's outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2010 to $1,164,575 plus its total assessments during the period 2005-2010.

Other Member States

19. As indicated in the report of the Committee on Contributions on its sixty-fourth session,[5] the Central African Republic indicated to the Committee that a long-term calendar of payments was being drawn up by its Finance and Budget Ministry and should be announced soon. This calendar had not been received at the time that the present report was prepared. The Committee was also informed by the representative of Guinea-Bissau that the Government was keeping the possibility of submitting a multi-year payment plan under continuous consideration as the situation normalized.[6] Such a plan had not been received at the time that the present report was prepared. The Committee also encouraged the Comoros and Iraq to consider presenting a multi-year payment plan as a way of gradually reducing their outstanding assessed contributions to the United Nations.[7]

20. No other Member States have so far submitted payment plans or schedules for the elimination of their arrears. While it is not possible to predict which Member States may choose to submit multi-year payment plans in future, it is reasonable to assume that Member States may be more likely to avail themselves of that option if their outstanding assessed contributions are high in relation to the current level of their assessed contributions. The table below shows the distribution of Member

States' unpaid assessed contributions as at 31 December 2004 in relation to the level of their assessed contributions for 2004 (in United States dollars):

Outstanding assessed contributions at 31 December 2004 were the following proportion of 2004 assessments	*Number of Member States*	*Total amount outstanding at 31 December 2004*
No outstanding assessed contributions	6	—
Less than 100%	115	2 520 316 415
100-199%	36	182 093 981
200-299%	18	27 993 867
300-399%	1	65 374
400-499%	2	286 678
More than 499%	13[a]	227 982 306

[a] Including the five Member States that have submitted payment plans.

III. Status of payment plans of Member States as at 31 December 2004

21. The status of implementation of the most recent payment plans submitted by Georgia, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan as at 31 December 2004 is summarized below.

Status of payment plans as at 31 December 2004

(United States dollars)

	Georgia				*Niger*			
	Most recent plan	*Assessment at 31 December*	*Payments/ credits*	*Outstanding at 31 December*	*Payment plan*	*Assessment at 31 December*	*Payments/ credits*	*Outstanding at 31 December*
1999				7 205 324				334 149
2000		116 120	184 443	7 188 001		27 082	95	361 136
2001		87 686	302 218	6 973 469		14 483	318	375 301
2002		114 552	70 298	7 019 723		15 723	3 233	387 791
2003		97 200	14 759	7 102 164		17 124	950	403 965
2004	776 229	79 750	899 929	6 281 985	18 000	20 932	28 926	395 971
2005	776 229				40 000			
2006	776 229				45 000			
2007	776 229				50 000			
2008	776 229				70 000			
2009	776 229				98 000			
2010	776 229				98 000			
2011	776 229				98 000			
2012	776 229				30 000			
2013	776 229							

	Republic of Moldova				*Sao Tome and Principe*			
	Payment plan	*Assessment at 31 December*	*Payments/ credits*	*Outstanding at 31 December*	*Payment plan*	*Assessment at 31 December*	*Payments/ credits*	*Outstanding at 31 December*
1999				3 386 720				570 783
2000		161 436	324 618	3 256 538		13 543	48	584 278
2001	180 000	38 395	163 254	3 131 810		14 254	157	598 375
2002	500 000	56 202	516 732	2 679 236	27 237	15 723	29 146	584 952
2003	800 000	38 883	861 278	1 856 841	42 237	17 124	929	601 147
2004	820 000	26 791	751 795	1 131 837	59 237	20 932	1 559	620 520
2005	1 000 000				74 237			
2006					89 237			
2007					114 237			
2008					134 237			
2009					153 752			
2010								
2011								
2012								
2013								

	Tajikistan			
	Payment plan	*Assessment at 31 December*	*Payments/credits*	*Outstanding at 31 December*
1999				2 436 208
2000	65 251	63 507	205 389	2 294 326
2001	67 822	18 727	296 251	2 046 802
2002	67 822	22 205	306 961	1 765 046
2003	67 822	19 439	296 628	1 487 857
2004	67 822	26 183	400 955	1 113 085
2005	67 822			
2006	203 466			
2007	203 466			
2008	203 467			
2009	203 467			
2010	203 467			
2011				
2012				
2013				

22. As indicated in the table, the Government of Tajikistan has once again significantly exceeded the payments/credits for the period from 2000 to 2004 foreseen in its schedule. Payments/credits totalling $1,506,184 were applied during

that period, compared to anticipated payments totalling $336,539 for those years in its schedule. Indeed, the payments and credits applied already exceed the total amount foreseen in Tajikistan's schedule. Should the Government of Tajikistan nevertheless make the payments currently indicated in its schedule for the period from 2005 to 2010 (a total of $1,085,155), its outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2010 would amount to $27,930 plus the amount of its assessments during the period from 2005 to 2010.

23. Payments/credits from the Republic of Moldova during the period from 2001 to 2004 ($2,293,059) fell somewhat short of payments foreseen in its schedule for the same period ($2,300,000). As a result, should the Government of the Republic of Moldova make the payment currently indicated in its schedule for 2005 ($1 million), its outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2005 would amount to $131,837 plus the amount of its assessments during 2005.

24. Payments by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe foreseen during the period from 2002 to 2004 in its payments schedule ($128,711) significantly exceeded the amounts actually received/applied in those years ($31,634). As a result, should the Government of Sao Tome and Principe make the payments currently indicated in its schedule for the period from 2005 to 2009 ($565,700), its outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2009 would amount to its assessments during the period from 2005 to 2009 plus $54,820.

25. Both Georgia and the Niger had payments and credits applied to their outstanding assessed contributions in 2004 that exceeded the amounts foreseen in their payment plans. Should the Government of Georgia make the payments currently indicated in its schedule for the period from 2005 to 2013 ($6,986,061), its outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2013 would amount to its assessments for the period from 2005 to 2013 minus $704,076. Should the Government of the Niger make the payments currently indicated in its schedule for the period from 2005 to 2012 ($529,000), its outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2012 would amount to its assessments for the period from 2005 to 2012 minus $133,029.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

26. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report and encourage Member States with significant arrears of contributions to consider submitting a multi-year payment plan**.

Notes

[1] A/57/65.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/57/11), chap. IV.A, paras. 17-23.

[3] A/58/63.

[4] A/59/67.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/59/11), para. 47.

[6] Ibid., para. 60.

[7] Ibid., paras. 58 and 68.